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*Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc.*  
WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

April 2021

[www.pvskiers.org](http://www.pvskiers.org)

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### *President's Message*

April is a month for transitions. Winter and the skiing season are coming to an end. It is a time for new beginnings. Spring is in full swing with the early flowers and azaleas in bloom. The trees have also begun to blossom and many plants such as hostas, irises, and daffodils have started to emerge from the earth. For those looking to ski in the next year, it is also time to buy your EPIC or IKON season passes, to begin planning your next ski adventures, and to consider signing up for our Snowmass trip and BRSC ski trips that are in the planning stages and are described in this TOOT.

For PVS, April is the month of the annual meeting, this year on April 20, 2021, and for election of new officers (*page 2*) and the departure of officers that have completed their terms. For me, this is my final president's message. It has been my honor, privilege, and pleasure to serve as your president for two years. It is worth noting that PVS is a very active organization even in times when skiing and other activities are significantly constrained due to the Coronavirus. We were successful in transitioning to Zoom meetings when in-person meetings were not appropriate. Soon, with the availability of the vaccine, we will be able to return to in-person meetings. Nevertheless, we have learned that Zoom meetings could be an alternative for some PVS meetings in the future, especially during the winter months to reduce the need to travel at night or during bad weather. It is also an efficient way to conduct ExCom meetings.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the significant contributions that the dedicated ExCom officers and members have made these past two years. Their advice to me during this time has been invaluable. All of the ExCom members, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, trip coordinators, permanent committee chairpersons (Membership, Events and Skiing), Nominating committee chair, Historian, TOOT coordinator, layout

editors, and distribution and website manager are experienced, valuable, and dedicated PVS members who guide the organization and work diligently to provide opportunities for PVS members to have enjoyable and memorable ski trips and other events. I am grateful that they willingly provide outstanding service to PVS. Without all their efforts, PVS would not enjoy the opportunities for fellowship and camaraderie that make PVS such a great organization. PVS members make the organization and everyone's willingness to participate in ski trips and other activities and take on responsibilities of leading these events are truly noteworthy. Continued willingness to participate and enjoy each other's company in whatever way possible is what makes PVS fun and enjoyable.

It is time for new officers to lead PVS; I congratulate and thank all who are standing for election for their willingness to take on the responsibilities to guide PVS through the next two years. I am sure they, along with the current ExCom members who have another year in their terms, will lead PVS with new ideas and provide opportunities for the membership to enjoy. I note that Cara Jablon has resigned her ExCom position effective April 19, 2021 to stand for Vice president. ExCom also appointed Sharon Mulholland an ExCom member effective April 20, 2021 for the remainder of Cara's term. I also thank the Committee chairpersons, Treasurer, and Secretary, TOOT coordinator and editors, website editors, website manager, meetings records and Historian who will be continuing their roles and providing invaluable service to the organization.

My thanks to everyone for supporting me during the past two years. I look forward to being an ex officio president in the coming year to support the incoming officers and PVS and to being with you on new ski trips and at other events in the future.

**Tom Tyc, President**

## Join Us at Our April 20, 2021, PVS Virtual Meeting

We will again be holding our PVS monthly meeting via Zoom. The meeting will be on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. For those of you who have used Zoom, you know that we will be able to see other attendees, share some stories, and watch our president, Tom Tycz, and others, cover some agenda items.

You will receive an invitation via email on the day of the meeting or the day before. If you are not familiar with Zoom, there is a short [tutorial](#) in the December 2020 TOOT and also free information on the Internet. If you have any additional questions, you can contact Marianne Soponis at [Marianne.Soponis@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.Soponis@gmail.com).

Looking forward to “seeing you” on April 20 !

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### NOTICE REGARDING THE ELECTION OF PVS OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES FOR 2021-2023 IN VIEW OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE ON-SITE APRIL ANNUAL MEETING

In view of continuing COVID guidelines and restrictions, ExCom decided at the February 23, 2021 ExCom meeting that the April election would be conducted in the same manner as the election was conducted in April 2020, that is it would be conducted as follows.

Because this election would have occurred at the April 20, 2021 annual meeting, ExCom wishes to adhere as closely as possible to the By-Laws and the recent practice of voting by acclamation in instances where there is a single slate of officers and there are no candidates running in opposition to the slate. This year, the candidates are all running unopposed. **The candidates are Barry Lake for President; Cara Jablon for Vice President; and Jannes Gibson, Mary Rose de Valladares, and Manfred Boehringer for two-year ExCom positions.**

By-Law Section III (B) provides that the “President and Vice President shall be elected by the highest number of votes cast for those offices by the active membership on or before the annual meeting. The Executive Committee candidates shall be elected by the highest number of votes cast for the number of Executive Committee positions available by the active membership on or before the annual meeting....”

In view of the By-Laws and the past practice of voting for a slate of candidates by acclamation, when an unopposed slate is presented at the annual meeting, ExCom has determined that receipt of this notice and a non-response satisfies the requirement of voting for the slate of candidates by acclamation. Thus, NO RESPONSE to this notice is deemed to be casting an affirmative vote. If a member has an objection, contrary vote, or comment, such should be directed to President Tom Tycz’s email no later than April 19, 2021 (email: [tstycz70@gmail.com](mailto:tstycz70@gmail.com)).

The election shall be deemed closed on April 20, 2021, which would have been the date of the regularly scheduled annual meeting.



**BY ACCLAMATION**

## Nominating Committee Report for PVS Officers (2021-2023)

Candidates for PVS Officers for 2021-2023: President: Barry Lake Vice-President: Cara Jablon	Submitted by the Nominating Committee:
Candidates of PVS Board Members for 2021-2023: ExCom: Mary Rose de Valladares ExCom: Jannes Gibson ExCom: Manfred Boehringer	Kerry Hines (Chair)
Additional nominations may be made by the signatures of any five active members in good standing and must be presented at a business meeting at least one month prior to the election, which will be held on April 20, 2021.	Dave DeVilbiss
	Salli Diakova
	Marianne Hines
	Kathy Lake
	Ellie Thayer

### *Candidates for Officers and Board Members for 2021-2023*

#### **BARRY LAKE – CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**

I was born in Leavenworth, KS, into an Army family. After a few years in Colorado Springs, the family took up more or less permanent residence in Arlington, VA. I attended George Mason University receiving a BS in Mathematics, and received an MS in Information Technology Administration from George Washington University. I am currently a Senior Cybersecurity Engineer for a Fairfax based information technology company, supporting the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) of the federal government.

While I originally learned to ski during my college days, I did not take up skiing in earnest until I met my future wife Kathy; both of us have enjoyed skiing together for over 30 years. We started out skiing mostly on the east coast, but after our first trip out west to Colorado, we pretty much gave up on east coast skiing. Over the years, we have been lucky enough to be able to take at least one to two ski trips a year, mostly to Colorado, Montana and Utah. We have also taken two European trips, to Switzerland and Austria, as well as two Canadian trips. Since joining PVS in 2015, we have thoroughly enjoyed yearly trips to Snowmass, having led them since 2017, and are looking forward to many more. I am finished 2 two-year terms on ExCom last year and am currently serving as acting Vice-President. We currently reside in Oakton, VA. When not skiing or working, we also enjoy time at the beach.

#### **CARA JABLON - CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT**

I have been a skier for more than 57 years. My initial ski experience was at Mount Holyoke College (in South Hadley, Massachusetts) at a no longer extant ski area called Mt. Tom. After a single ski experience, I went home for Christmas vacation and bought my first pair of skis – long wooden skis - and lace-up boots. For years, I have enjoyed the challenge of the moguls and worked on improving my bump technique. Currently, the biggest challenge to this type of skiing is the loss of strength that comes with aging.

After graduating from Mount Holyoke with a major in chemistry, and a minor in philosophy, I headed to New York City to attend Columbia University in a doctorate program in Biochemistry. Although I eventually finished the doctorate, I decided that I was not destined to be a scientist. What else to do but go to law school! After marrying Robert Jablon, and several months after my first child, Stephen, was born, I started law school in Albany, New York. During that year, Robert joined a law firm in Washington, D.C., and I dropped out of law school. I resumed law school at George Washington University the following year, and also finished writing my doctoral dissertation that year. Halfway through law school, I had another child, Lara.

After finishing law school, I started work in the Office of General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where I practiced pesticide law for thirteen years and was involved in limiting the use of wood

preservative chemicals and Compound 1080, and taking arsenic ant baits off the market. My third child, Joel, was born in 1984.

Near the end of my time at EPA, I did a detail at the U.S. Attorney's Office in DC. Over the course of four months, I tried numerous misdemeanor drug cases. My subsequent legal career, over a period of about twelve years, was at three different law firms, where I wrote countless briefs and memoranda in the area of chemical regulatory law.

I retired early from law – despite my father's advice never to retire – and turned my attention in a different direction to beading. I have a small jewelry business and make necklaces, earrings, and bracelets that I sell at local craft shows. I am currently the president of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild and co-chair of the Guild's Thanksgiving weekend arts and craft show in Vienna, Virginia. I am also the vendor chair for a holiday show at Temple Sinai in DC.

I enjoy spending time with my dog Tila, going to dance aerobics three times a week, swimming regularly in the summer, working in my garden, and enjoying concerts, opera, and theatre. I am also a member of a Toastmasters Speaking Club, and have been the club treasurer for many years. Bob and I enjoy collecting art, particularly folk art, and have not been able to resist the sand paintings sold on the square in Santa Fe and other art objects from western ski trips.

Stephen, our oldest son, lives with us in DC and is running a chess business. Our daughter, Lara, and her husband live on a 40-acre farm in southern Washington State, replete with goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, chickens, dogs and cats. Lara runs a wedding business and does landscaping and carpentry when not taking care of six-year old Nathan. Joel teaches high school English in Portland Oregon.

A number of years ago, I served as president of PVS. I have participated in the PVS Snowmass trip for many years, and have also been on many other club trips, including trips to Sun Valley, Sun Peaks, Andorra, Austria and France. Bob, who also served as the club's president, and I have run ski trips to Mt. Bachelor, Steamboat, and Park City.

## **MARY ROSE DE VALLADARES – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM**

Growing up in the Washington area, my family's winter sport was ice-skating on outdoor ponds or indoor rinks. By late high school, the excitement of televised downhill skiing inspired me to propose a ski trip at my all-girls' school – but the girls weren't ready for a ski adventure. When I finally took to the Washington area slopes, the local ice conditions were daunting. But I persisted and joined friends for a ski trip in New Hampshire (Mt. Sunapee), where the cold proved equally challenging. Not long thereafter, I skied out West (Aspen and Breckenridge) for the first time. A powder epiphany! Then, my first "permanent" job took me temporarily from Washington to Denver where I travelled the southwest for work. From there I had opportunities to ski in Utah (Park City), Colorado (Telluride) and New Mexico (Ski Apache, Taos). While I wasn't really "black diamond" material, I thoroughly enjoyed the beginner-intermediate slopes. Marriage led me to New Mexico, which has many and varied ski areas. Notably, I first experienced the delights of cross-country skiing there.

My ski life paused for a while when, five months pregnant with my first child, I got off a lift at Albuquerque's Sandia Peak. Gazing at the city below, I realized that it might not be such a great idea to ski down the slope. Next time I took a lift up the slope was sometime after my second child was born. With a family business and children, I skied sporadically over the next few years. Fast forward more years.... the loss of "the key man" in our family and business led me back to Washington where Jorge and I met at a Congressional field hearing on the environment. We married two years later.

I resumed skiing in New Mexico. The last time was at Ski Santa Fe where a man in a helmet mowed down several people -- including me-- on a narrow intermediate trail. He never looked back. I landed on my wrists facing uphill and had to drive back to my friend's home alone. Since writing is critical to my job, I decided that skiing alone was maybe not such a good idea. Since then, my ski life has been on hold. I keep busy with work in international energy and technology development. I have an MA in Urban Planning and an MBA, the latter from Georgetown, as well as a Diplôme in French Civilisation from the Sorbonne in Paris. I am now restructuring my management/consultancy in Clean energy/hydrogen. Remaining in touch with PVS during this process and during COVID has been a major morale booster for me.

I am honored to be asked to serve on ExCom for a second term and am looking forward to skiing with PVS Members!

**JANNES GIBSON – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM**

I started skiing at Aspen in the 1950s. So, of course I chose to attend the University of Colorado where I met my husband in the 1960s. He was also a keen skier. I lost my favorite skiing partner in 2002 and some time after heard about PVS.

I have lived in Potomac since 1974 with assignments abroad in Afghanistan (where we built a rope tow outside Kabul), Indonesia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Malawi. In Europe, we skied in Arosa, Switzerland, Val d’Isere, France and Bormio, Italy. In the U.S., most of the skiing was in Colorado or near DC at Bryce or Canaan Valley. Since my husband died in 2002, I have travelled a lot, but want to be sure to ski while I still enjoy it so much.

I volunteered and worked at The Textile Museum in Washington, DC from 1979 to 1994. Currently, I am on the board of Dance Place and Andean Textile Arts, which supports ten communities of weavers in Peru and the Andes.

**(PAUL) MANFRED BOEHRINGER – CANDIDATE FOR EXCOM**

Yes, my first name is actually Paul, but nobody calls me Paul so we can stick with Manfred. I was born in southwest Germany near the city of Stuttgart. Before I could go to college, I was drafted into the Luftwaffe (Air Force) for 18 months. There was no flying involved, I was a telephone guy.

I learned to ski at college near Lake Constance. This was a great place close to the Swiss and Austrian Alps. It was the time chairlifts had one seat and a chain to protect you from falling out.

After college, I moved to Munich to work. Munich is a great location if one wants to go skiing, as there are many places close by. I met my wife in Munich; she is from New York. After many work assignments in Asia, South America, Africa, and Florida, we moved to Reston, VA, and have lived here for 20 years. Now I am a US citizen and plan on staying in the area.

I am very happy with the great ski trips and have enjoyed the PVS companionship a lot. My favorite US ski areas are Snowmass and Taos. Taos is a little like my first Austrian ski areas.

Since the club gave me opportunities for a lot of great experiences and fun, I think it’s time that I help a little bit with the work the club is doing.



*Cherry blossoms are here.*

*Spring has sprung.*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**SNOWMASS MOUNTAIN CHALET  
JANUARY 12-19, 2022  
LED BY KATHY AND BARRY LAKE  
(More information in next TOOT)**





## BYOB Meets Again!

PVS' BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group met in March to share their reading adventures and to get new ideas of what to read while the weather (and a little something else called COVID-19) keeps us indoors. **See the info at the bottom for how to join us on April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm!**

Here are the books we shared in March:

- Ellie Thayer offered two related books: first, "Luncheon of the Boating Party" by Susan Vreeland, a fictionalized telling of the creation of the iconic painting by Renoir. She also shared "The Secret Lives of Great Artists" by Elizabeth Lunday who tells the often-humorous stories of many artists' peccadillos.
- Bonnie Sweeney brought us "The Yellow House" by Sarah Broom, a memoir of the author's family's lives in New Orleans and how their African American community was impacted over the short and long term by Hurricane Katrina.
- Lexie Armao was enthusiastic about "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles. Set in Texas after the Civil War, it centers around an itinerant newsreader as he brings a small girl to her family after she was held hostage for 4 years by the Kiowa.
- Marianne Soponis discussed "American Dirt" by Jeanine Cummins, a tale of the terrifying odyssey of a mother and son from Mexico to the United States as they escaped from members of organized crime.
- Jan Marx noted "The Glass Castle" by Jeanette Walls, a memoir of the travails and survival of the author and her family who were mired in poverty in the US.
- Dorian Janney reflected on the fascinating and true "Hidden Valley Road" by Robert Kolker. Kolker discusses the multiple mental health challenges of one family and provides an open and honest portrayal of how to deal with such issues.
- Nancy McKinley brought "This is Happiness" by Niall Williams. Williams' novel is a beautifully-written and tender coming-of-age story set in rural Ireland in the 1950s as told by the elderly narrator about his 17-year-old self.

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### Coming Event

The next BYOB Zoom call will be held on Thursday, April 8 from 4 to 5 pm. Let Marianne Soponis know at [marianne.soponis@gmail.com](mailto:marianne.soponis@gmail.com) if you're interested in joining us and she'll put you on the list to get the link to the Zoom call. Questions or comments? Get in touch with Nancy McKinley at [nancymckin@gmail.com](mailto:nancymckin@gmail.com) or 703 595 8375.

## Coming Event

### PVS Events for April 2021

Enthusiasm was expressed for getting together in person! If people are vaccinated and follow CDC guidelines, here are thoughts for April:

1. Travel down Route 66 to Route I-81 N to exit 304, to the Wayside Inn in Middletown, Virginia and enjoy lunch at John Hotaling's (and others') restaurant, part of the Inn. It is about a 1.3-hour drive from Washington and on a spring day, should be a lovely trip. We have chosen **Wednesday, April 21** as the day and plan to make reservations for noon seating. There is indoor and outdoor seating. The web site is [www.WaysideInn1797.com](http://www.WaysideInn1797.com). It is the oldest continuously operated inn in America. The oldest portion dates to 1742. John will email a menu. The address is 7783 Main Street, Middletown, Virginia 22645-9502. Please let Marianne know (by Friday, April 16) if you are interested in attending. ([Marianne.soponis@gmail.com](mailto:Marianne.soponis@gmail.com) or 202-363-5250



2. The Hillwood Estate, in Northwest Washington, D.C., is another wonderful place to visit. There are garden tours (\$15 for seniors) as well as tours of the Marjorie Merriweather Post mansion and its fabulous collections (separate reservations need to be made). Depending on where your preference lies, this could be a full day adventure. An on-site café serves lunch. If you have any interest, check in with Marianne, who can make reservations for up to six. The website is [www.hillwoodmuseum.org](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org).

3. The tour to Glenstone on Friday, April 30, at 12:45 p.m. is filled. If you'd like to be put on a cancellation list, let Marianne know.



May brings other possibilities ---- hikes, tours, restaurants, etc. We look forward to more opportunities getting reacquainted. If you have suggestions, please let Marianne know!



**ON TUESDAY, MARCH 16, TWAS THE WEARIN' OF THE GREEN**

On the day before St. Patrick's Day, PVS held its March Zoom meeting and quite a few Irish or would-be Irish sported green attire or beads. No green beer was spotted, thankfully. The visual star of this meeting was, however, the impressive length of Tom Tycz's ponytail, which he has been growing now for a year. Twenty-six or so members bounced in and out of the meeting expertly facilitated by Marianne Sponis. In addition to Marianne, participants included Tom Tycz, Mary Tycz, Don Vierimaa, Kathy Lake, Barry Lake, Dave Warthen, Cara Jablon, Bob Jablon, Rosemary Schwartzbard, John Hotaling, Blanca Hotaling, Peter Russell, Kerry Hines, Marianne Hines, Bonnie Sweeney, Dick Parlow, Bing Van Nuys, Jan Marx, Jill Nelson, Sharon Mulholland, Dorian Janney, Carolyn DeVilbiss, Mary Rose de Valladares, Melissa FitzGerald, and Ellie Thayer. Meetings via Zoom have allowed people to join who are out of the area. Bonnie called in from Indianapolis. Dick joined from Richmond. We were able to see Peter but not hear him due to technical difficulties. But the bottle of liquor in the background may have been solace for his IT problems!



As usual during these last few months, vaccinations dominated the opening social hour conversation. Creeping into the conversation, however, was chatter about the potential of seeing other members in real time. Also, there was some ski news – Cara Jablon is headed to the Canyons to ski with some women friends and Dick Parlow recently skied at Winter Park. Tom brought up the proposed indoor skiing hill to be built in Fairfax County. While Jill Nelson pulled weeds with her grandson, Carolyn and Dave DeVilbiss enjoyed watching someone else doing their yard work. Dorian spoke of building a fire pit. Unfortunately, a few members had Covid, but have recovered and are doing well. Even more unfortunately, Bing broke his collarbone and elbow in a fall.



Tom opened the short business meeting. Ski Committee Chair, Rosemary Schwartzbard, reported optimistically about the Snowmass trip in January 2022 to be led by Kathy and Barry Lake. Kerry Hines reported that the April election was on track with its creative voting process whereby not responding results in a vote by acclamation. Our Events Guru, Marianne Sponis, was encouraged by an outpouring of ideas for future events. Don Vierimaa queried whether the

vaccinated could soon meet in person. Sharon Mulholland and Dorian Janney thought that a hike to Seneca Lake was a possibility, and a spaced beer garden gathering caught the attention of some. John Hotaling shared the news that his newly acquired historic Wayside Inn in Middletown, VA would be opening very soon and that generated interest as a future gathering place. Marianne reported that she had secured five tickets to Glenstone at the end of April and five members quickly claimed the coveted spaces. In the interim, the Quiddler foursome of Carolyn DeVilbiss, Dave DeVilbiss, Jan Marx, and Sharon Mulholland is going strong as is the Nancy McKinley-led monthly BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) group.

Spring and an end to the pandemic were clearly in the minds and hearts of the gathered PVSers as Tom adjourned the meeting.

*Submitted by Kathy Lake and Ellie Thayer*

## SKI TALK April 2021

So, what do we do now? We have our vaccinations but are cautioned not to get too wild about changing our lifestyles. We are “allowed” to have dinner with other vaccinated friends at home, but indoor restaurant dining is still on the dangerous list. Group activities are definitely a no-no. Traveling is questionable. Airplanes are relatively safe but being in airports, hotels, and restaurants is considered risky behavior.

We were so excited about getting our vaccines and were longing for a different life. Then some invitations came along. We rapidly accepted dinner at home invitations; we turned down dinner in restaurants. Then an invitation came for an overnight at a friend’s house and a theater experience this summer. Oh, how I longed to accept. BUT how would this work? Would we still be in masks? Would the event be socially distanced? What if COVID is not under control by summer? How does one do a social event in person with other people? We just attended our first funeral on Zoom. Zoom has become not only a way of life but also a way of death. Now that we have adjusted to pandemic life, how do we re-enter the post-pandemic world without trepidation?



Some of our members are daring. Cara Jablon went to Canyons/Park City the end of March, a couple weeks after her second vaccination. She said the airports and airplanes were very crowded. She stayed at the Grand Summit, where the club stayed a number of years ago. It is conveniently located near two of the base lifts. She reports that her first day was challenging skiing in wet snow. She figured out how to use the gondola from Canyons to Park City and did a few runs off the Park City King Con lift (Temptation and Seldom Seen). By her third day, she was skiing the bumps. She had relatively good weather and good snow conditions. Her main complaint was that she did not have 50-year old legs. She went to restaurants every night and is hoping, “The vaccine is effective, as you cannot avoid exposures in restaurants and going up the lift and in the lift lines.” She said, “Mask wearing is a little haphazard, .and social distancing is non-existent.” Kudos to Cara for having a ski adventure in a pandemic.



We are in the process of working on a contract for a ski trip to Snowmass next January. During this era of Covid, this is more complicated than in the past. Who knows what next January will bring? However, we are optimistic that we will all be vaccinated and the pandemic will be waning by the end of this year. We will forge onward and get the trip planned. We need to get on our skis again. See Save the Date for **Snowmass, January 12-19, 2022**, on page 13.

Please let me know if you would be interested in leading a ski trip in 2022.

Rosemary **Schwartzbard**  
[rosemaryschw@gmail.com](mailto:rosemaryschw@gmail.com)

# Members' Corner

J. David Warthen, Jr.  
[dwarthen409@gmail.com](mailto:dwarthen409@gmail.com)



## SPRING

Spring has finally arrived officially on March 20. The 12 months prior to its arrival seemed to be the longest period of time we all have ever experienced due to pandemic isolation. Brain fog, depression, gaining weight, and lack of socialization have been a real problem for many of us. Even if one has received one of the vaccines for the Coronavirus, we all are very cautious about masking, distancing, and hand washing. The different variants of the Coronavirus have brought about this caution. As the experts in science learn about these viruses, we try to keep up with the latest advice in science from CDC, which seems to be back on track. Amazing progress has been made, for which all of us are expressing thanks and relief. Light seems to be at the end of the tunnel. A good sign is that the U.S. is reaching out to help less fortunate countries.

**The Annual/Monthly Zoom Meeting** will soon occur again on April 20, 2021, 7:30 pm. We are repeating the same format because of Covid-19. Thanks go to K **Hines**, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, as well as the Committee Members. PVS also thanks T **Tycz** for his Presidential duties and K. Nossuli for his Vice Presidential duties. Thanks also go to Board Members who have finished their terms in office. We thank the new slate of Officers and Board Members who have stepped up to the plate for 2021-2023. The amount of work that is done behind the scenes is amazing. During this pandemic, monthly meetings have continued with novel interests and faithful attendance to keep our minds sharp.

**Electronic TOOT to 118 Members:** - pdf: 108

### Thanks to:

- TOOT Coordinator - E **Thayer**
- TOOT Layout Editors: J **Marx**, K **Hines**, D **Warthen**  
April TOOT Layout Editor – D **Warthen**
- TOOT Electronic Distribution – D **Warthen**

**Roster Changes:** contact <[dwarthen409@gmail.com](mailto:dwarthen409@gmail.com)>

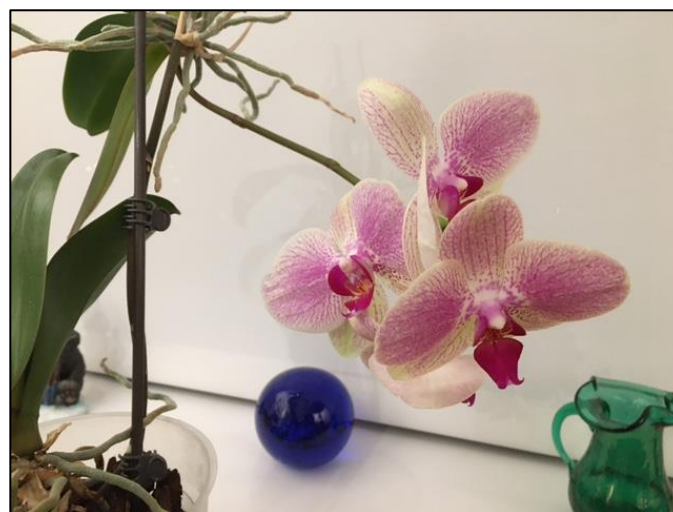
### Nature's Best:

One can never outdo Nature's handiwork. Having grown orchids for many years in my greenhouse, my eye was drawn immediately to an orchid which I had never seen before. I miss those days prior to children; my Dad and I assembled the greenhouse on the back of my home in Aspen Hill, MD. I am glad that I expended money to do that for it was a dream come true. When children came



along and we moved to Olney, MD, that was the end of the era of the greenhouse. Rearing my 2 girls vs raising orchids was a no-brainer; my girls won that choice hands down. However, some 40 years later, I still have 2 phalaenopsis (moth) orchids where we now live in Riderwood, Silver Spring.

The spectacular White Dove Orchid/Egret Flower (Habernaria radiata), above, grows in the tropics and blooms once a year during the Pentecost season.

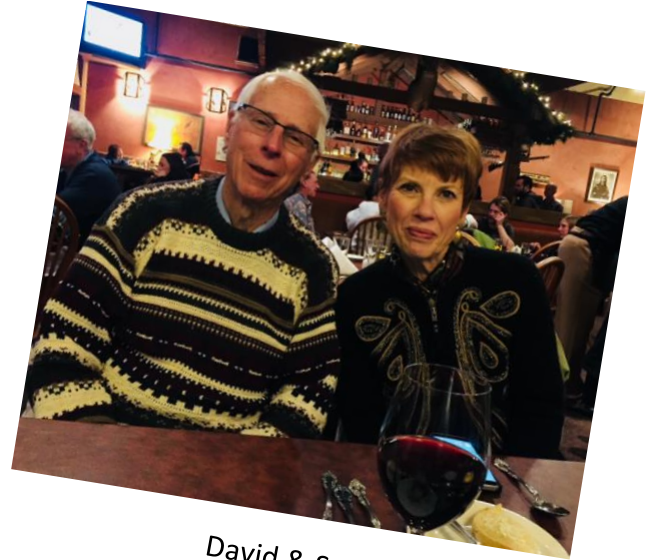


*Our Moth Orchids at Riderwood*

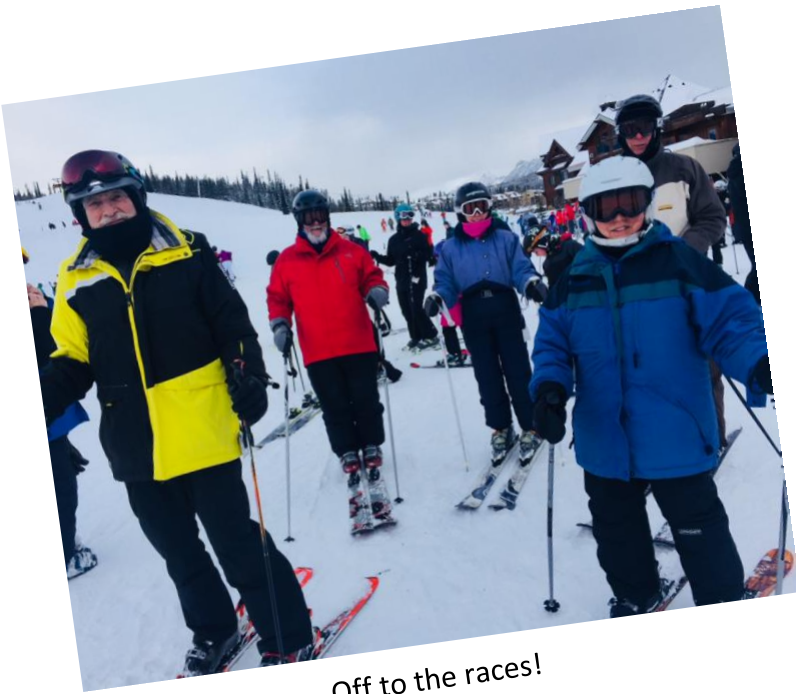
'Looking Back' to [Big Sky 2018](#) with fond memories:



The gang's all here.



David & Susan



Off to the races!



Zip line for PVSers?

Big



Sky

*Calendar*

- Thur Apr 08 BYOB (Bring Your Own Book) Zoom at 4:00-5:00 pm, N. McKinley
- Tues Apr 20 April General/Annual Meeting Zoom, 7:30 pm
- Wed Apr 21 Lunch at Wayside Inn, Middletown, VA at noon
- Tues Apr 27 Zoom ExCom Meeting at 7:00 pm
- Fri Apr 30 Glenstone, Potomac, MD at 12:45 pm (Marianne Soponis, fully booked)

*Ski Trips:*

Jan 12-19, 2022 Save the date. Snowmass Mountain Chalet, Colorado  
with Kathy & Barry Lake

*ExCom, Board  
Officers, and Committee Chairs*

<p><b>Officers:</b>  President – <i>Tom Tycz</i>  Vice Pres. – <i>Barry Lake</i>  Secretary – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>  Treasurer – <i>Dick Schwartzbard</i>  Ex Officio -  <b>Board Members:</b>  <b><i>First Term:</i></b>  <i>Cara Jablon</i>  <i>Kathy Lake</i>  <i>Don Vierimaa</i>  <b><i>Second Term:</i></b>  <i>Jannes Gibson</i>  <i>Jan Marx</i>  <i>Mary Rose de Valladares</i></p>	<p><b>Chairpersons:</b>  Ski Trip Committee – <i>Rosemary Schwartzbard</i>  Events – <i>Marianne Soponis</i>  Membership Records – <i>Dave Warthen</i>    TOOT Coordinator – <i>Ellie Thayer</i>  TOOT Layout Editors – <i>Jan Marx, Kerry Hines</i>  &amp; <i>Dave Warthen</i>  TOOT (E-Distribution) – <i>Dave Warthen</i>    Webmaster – <i>Mary Ellena Ward</i>    Meeting Records – <i>Sue Lyon</i>    Historian – <i>Jan Marx</i></p>
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**Useful Ski “Links”**  
[Potomac Valley Skiers](#)  
[BRSC Sanctioned Trips](#)  
[DC Ski Online News](#)

**Reminder:** It is club policy that contact information in the club's roster not be used for promoting personal business, for advertising, or for personal financial gain without the advance permission of the individual member to be contacted. Membership contact information shall not be distributed outside PVS.